

Governor's Advisory Council for Veteran Services

Arrowheads Community Club
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003
February 21, 2018

Aging Committee

Mr. Ed Beck

Ms. Samantha Cossman

Co-Chairs

Aging Committee, Ed Beck and Samantha Cossman (co-chairs)

Conf. Calls on 12/20/17 and 1/17/18; In Person on 2/21/18

Member:

Name	Affiliation
Ed Beck	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Samantha Cossman	Department of Aging (PA Link)
Brian Natali	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Tim Cleveland	Tioga County Veterans' Affairs
Kit Watson	American Legion
James Fearn / Kevin Hancock	Department of Human Services (OLTL)
Ben Laudermilch / Jonathan McVey	Department of Human Services (Housing)
Christopher Kemmerer	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Larry Furlong	Fish and Boat Commission
Anne Adams / Deborah Allen	PA Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition
Jamie Dunlap / Sarah Merritt	PA Council on the Arts

Aging Committee

Adult Day

On hold until construction project; no update at this time

County Home Partnerships

Meetings held with legislators who have expressed interest in partnership

Next Step: meet with DOH to determine regulatory considerations

Reducing Aging Veteran Homelessness

Update at end of Aging Committee report out

Aging Committee (continued)

❑ Opportunities for Aging Veterans, their Family Members and Caregivers (community involvement, socialization, outdoor activities)

DCNR partnership updates

- 1st Day Hikes promoted through Veteran/military publications – completed
- Exhibitor at two pre-deployment events in Nov. for Family Assistance Center - completed
- Partnership with SVHs – in progress
- Partnership with American Legion – in development

Fish and Boat Commission presented on programming 12-20-17

- Reviewed Free and Reduced Cost Fishing Licenses, Institutional Fishing License, Active Duty Military/ National Guard / Armed Forces Reserve, Special Activities Permit
- F+B will look into providing content to Veteran and military publications like DCNR did (Keystone News, DMVA Digest, TAA, FAC program, etc).

Next presenter = PA Council on the Arts (March and April)

Aging Committee (continued)

❑ Expanding PA Link Initiatives for Aging Veterans

- Introduced Alzheimer's Association GPA chapter staff to SVH (Hollidaysburg);
Next Step = discuss potential of connecting all SVHs to Alzheimer's Association POCs and ideas for collaboration
- PA Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition compiled list of 13 courses/trainings they offer on dementia - or some dementia subject matter (list available upon request)
- PDA desires to pursue a collaboration with DMVA and VA to address caregiver support programming for military/veteran caregivers
- Survey of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
 - Administered via online questionnaire in December 2017
 - Asked about familiarity with Veterans supports (i.e., County Director of Veterans Affairs) and Veteran programs (i.e., VD-HCBS)
 - 35 of 52 AAAs responded – 67% rate

Aging Committee (continued)

❑ Expanding PA Link Initiatives for Aging Veterans

Survey of Area Agencies on Aging: results, completed items, next steps

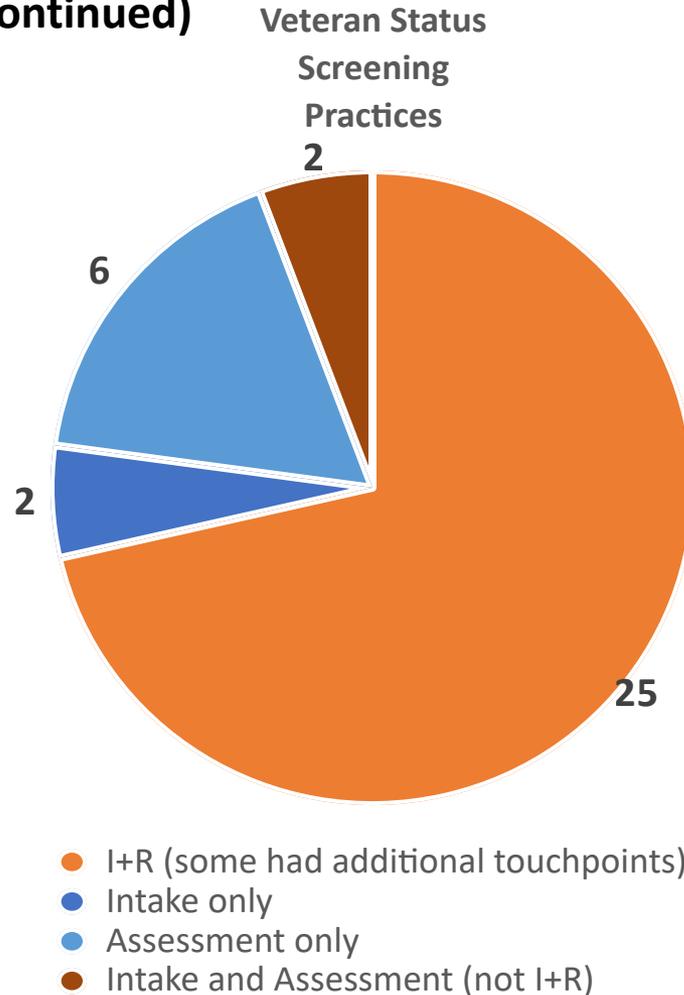
- Many AAAs requested more information on Veterans supports and services

Completed 1-22-18:

Emailed all AAA Administrators the following educational information:

- link to 9/13/17 webinar recording on DMVA and Veterans' services
- link to online training module on Veterans' services
- link to 4/5/16 recording on VA mental health programs/military culture
- 2017 Veterans' Day message
- Practical Ways to Connect a Veteran to Services and Supports
- VISN4 map and layout

Aging Committee (continued)



*Next Step:

Encourage screening at all points of contact with AAA; provide suggested phrasing to yield best screening results

Aging Committee (continued)

- 100% of respondents say their staff will refer an identified Veteran to a VSO, such as County Director
- 94% (33 of 35) know who the County Director of Veterans Affairs is for their planning and service area – turnover in positions, retirements

*Next Step: develop plan for PA Link Regionals to help introduce County Director of Veterans Affairs and AAA Director when one is new to their position

Agging Committee (continued)

- 83% (29 of 35) of respondents say they have a good working relationship with their County Director of Veterans Affairs
- 19 of those 29 would be willing to share examples of how they work well together (e.g. 1 AAA reports their County Director of Veterans Affairs comes to the agency 1x/month to meet with aging Veterans and their families)

*Next Step: discuss creating a list of best practices from both AAA and County Director of Veterans Affairs perspectives

Aging Committee (continued)

- VD-HCBS currently offered in Philadelphia County area
- 22 AAAs would like more information and education on VD-HCBS, would be interested in possibly offering, or have initiated process to offer VD-HCBS

Those locations are part of catchment areas for the following VAMCs:

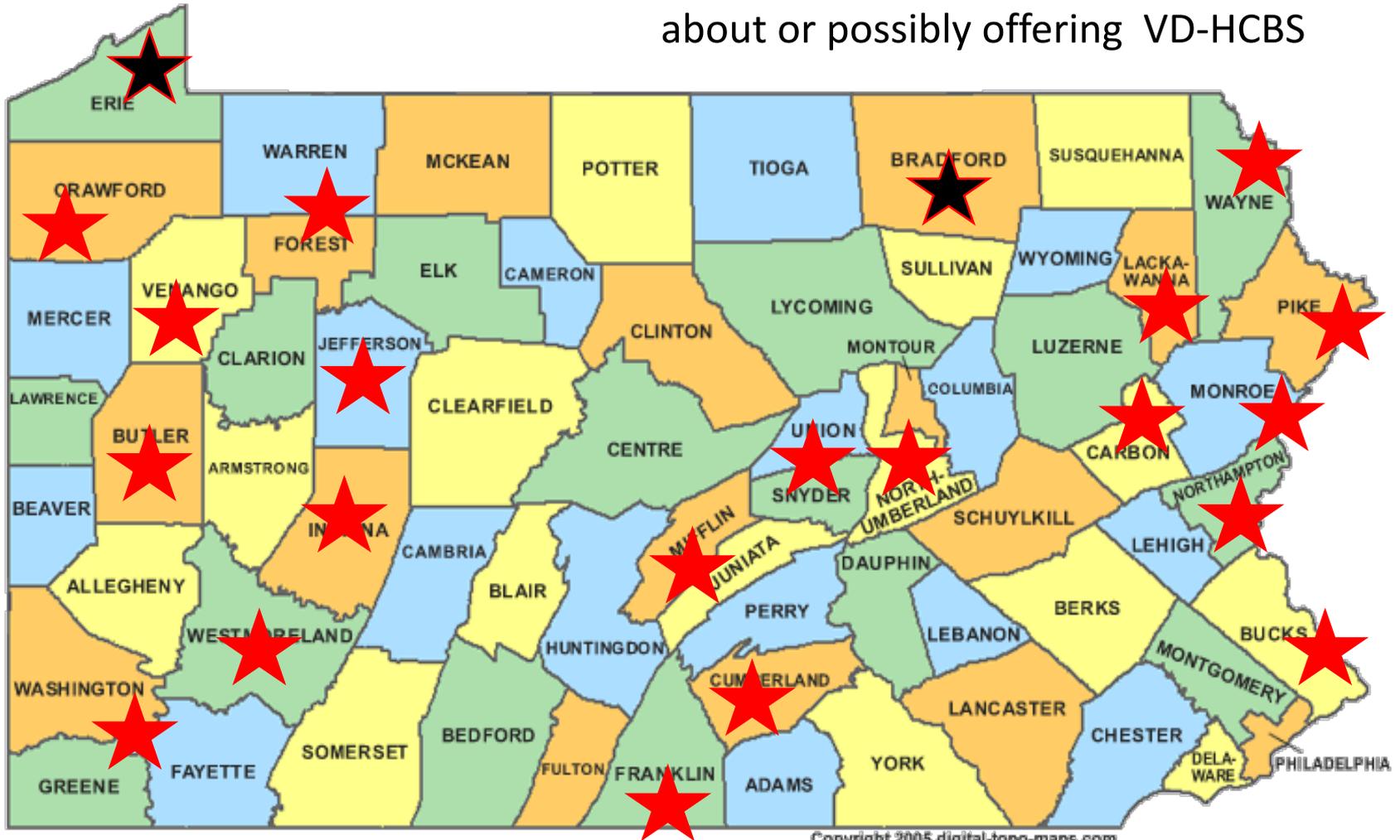
Erie, Butler, Pittsburgh, Altoona, Lebanon, Philadelphia, Wilkes-Barre, and Martinsburg, WV (VISN5)

Completed 1-22-18: basic info and websites on VD-HCBS emailed to AAA network

- *Next Steps:
- provide additional VD-HCBS education to AAAs that want it;
 - match up VISN4 interest/willingness to discuss

Aging Committee (continued)

AAAs that have expressed interest in learning about or possibly offering VD-HCBS



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Joint Committee on Reducing Veteran Homelessness

Met via webinar/teleconference on 7/18/17, 9/29/17, 11/7/17, 1/29/18

- Have brought on key housing SME from community and state/fed gov't
- Outlined some discussion areas: causes, front door, existing programs, knowledge experts outside of Veterans-systems, solutions for hard-to-house, programs to help find and maintain housing once secured, housing availability and locations that need housing development, etc.
- Brand new connection made between RHC program and VISN 4 and DMVA
- PDA/Aging network on board for perspective on issues affecting aging Veterans experiencing homelessness

VA Healthcare Annual Point In Time (PIT) Count

During the last two weeks of January, 2018, VISN 4 homeless staff and leadership participated in the Annual Homeless PIT Count, where outreach was conducted in collaboration with community partners. The PIT Counts were scheduled at various times during the day, evening and late night hours, as determined by the community team.

- Staff from all 9 VISN 4 medical centers participated and VA leadership included Medical Center Directors, Associate Directors, Chief of Staff , Social Work Executives, and VISN staff.
- Rural outreach was conducted in known homeless gatherings such as encampments in the woods, along creeks and rivers, train tracks, and abandoned vehicles.
- Urban outreach was conducted in locations such as streets and alleyways, emergency weather shelters, churches, under bridges, parks, and abandoned buildings. Veterans in shelters and VA transitional housing programs are counted as homeless, but “sheltered.”
- VA staff reported limited barriers this year with the exception of poor weather in some locations. Most VA staff reported a strong cohesion with their community partners that led to a well organized event.

VA Healthcare Annual Point In Time (PIT) Count Cont.

Please note that the below data is organized by VA catchment area, which include several counties in eastern Ohio and southern New Jersey. Data can also be organized by Continuums of Care (CoC). 2018 PIT Count data will be available later this calendar year.

*Coatesville's numbers include all Veterans that are residents at their Transitional Housing HCHV and GPD programs (225 beds total) located on the VA campus. These Veterans are considered "sheltered" but still meet the definition of homeless.

Pennsylvania VISN 4 VAMC	2016 PIT Count	2017 PIT Count	% Difference from last year
Altoona	59	49	-17%
Butler	42	32	-24%
*Coatesville	248	248	0
Erie	46	47	+2%
Lebanon	125	120	-4%
Philadelphia	408	361	-12%
Pittsburgh	212	139	-34%
Wilkes Barre	105	81	-23%
VISN 4 Total	1,245	1,077	-13.5%

Joint Committee on Reducing Veteran Homelessness

- Presentation provided to VISN 4 Homeless Leadership Workgroup on 1/9/19
 - Overview of Self-Determination Housing Project of PA
 - Regional Housing Coordinators
 - Provided information and eligibility criteria for the 811 PRA Rental Subsidy
 - Pennsylvania Accessible Housing Program (PAHP)
- PAHousingSearch.com
 - Landlords can list units for free
 - Statewide search engine to look for units
- In Progress
 - Compiling list of counties where landlords are willing to help house Veterans with housing barriers (criminal history)

Joint Committee on Reducing Veteran Homelessness

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, five-year housing strategy is a comprehensive plan to connect Pennsylvanians to affordable, integrated, accessible, and supportive housing.

The strategy was first launched in 2016 in partnership with the Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, as well as other local, state, and federal agencies. A year after the successfully launch, DHS received feedback from stakeholders and updated the strategy to clarify goals and reorganize information.

The 2018 update contains four strategies that guide the department's efforts:

1. Connect people to housing.
2. Strengthen services and supports that address housing needs.
3. Expand funding opportunities for housing.
4. Measure and communicate progress.

Some examples of the department's efforts for 2018 include:

- The implementation of Medicaid supported housing services within the Consolidated, Person/Family Directed Supports, Community Living, and Community HealthChoices Waivers,
- Training for professionals on topics like navigating affordable housing or fair housing discrimination,
- Publishing housing education and outreach materials for consumers and providers, and
- Launch of the Community HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations' innovative housing efforts.

To see the Five Year Housing Strategy and other resources and information related to housing, please visit:

www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/housing.

Education, Employment and Workforce Development Committee

Mr. Ruben Pachay
Chair

Education, Employment and Veteran Workforce Development, Mr. Ruben Pachay, (Chair) Members:

Name	Affiliation
Ruben Pachay	Department of Labor and Industry
Christine Hawk	Department of Education
Bruce Foster	State Veterans' Commission
Cory Bender	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Bryan Lentz	State Civil Service Commission
Corey Britcher	Fish and Boat Commission
Tina Kotsalos	Department of Banking and Securities
Thomas Applebach	County Directors for Veterans Affairs
Scott Sheely	Department of Agriculture
Shelly Forte	Office of Administration

Health and Behavioral Service Committee

Mr. Rick Hamp
Chair

Health and Behavioral Service, Rick Hamp, (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Rick Hamp	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Mike Stelacio	State Veterans' Commission
Jodi Skiles	Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
Angela Keen	VISN 4
Belinda Albright	County Directors for Veterans' Affairs
Robert Rounce	Department of Health

White House Veterans Affairs Conference



November 29, 2017 at the White House, Washington DC...

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs was represented by SA Hamp



Vice President Mike Pence spoke eloquently and passionately with regard to the Administrations support to our Service Members, Veterans and their Families.

Secretary Shulkin chaired a very informative panel and open discussion with VA Leadership

He was very focused on the administrations effort to improve health care services to our Veterans

He spoke of his vision into future changes and enhancements in VA Health Care and how the VA will deliver services in the future.

He spoke of how the VA is actively reallocating resources to ensure that much needed

funding is pushed down to the delivery level, ensuring that our VA Medical Centers

have the resources necessary to meet the needs of the Veterans they serve.

He was open and honest regarding his decision to not fill a number of high level VA Leadership Positions, opting rather to utilize funding to provide services to

Veterans.

- **The Honorable Anthony Kurta SR. Office of the Under Secretary of Personnel and Readiness, U.S. Department of Defense chaired a discussion panel that focused on transitioning service members and their families. He spoke about the Transition Assistance Program and how the DoD is partnering with the USDVA to focus on the challenges associated with leaving military service and re-integrating back into community. The need to provide additional Suicide Prevention and Wellness initiatives were acknowledged as an important aspect for transitioning families.**
- **Acting Secretary Eric Hargan represented the Department of Health & Human Services. Secretary Hargan was open and straightforward with his discussion. He acknowledged and committed the resources of his department to provide both general and targeted services that benefit Service Members, Veterans and their Families. He placed a great deal of emphasis on the activities of SAMSHA and programs like Mental Health First Aid, suicide prevention initiatives, smoking cessation, the opioid crisis and PTSD with co-occurring substance use disorders. He indicated that DHHS will push funding to the states to address these issues. It was easy to draw a direct correlation to the efforts of DHHS and the challenges we see here in the Commonwealth.**

Secretary Alex Acosta, Department of Labor, chaired a panel discussion on Veteran Programs. Secretary Acosta was well versed on the challenges that our transitioning service members and Veterans face in the labor market. He spoke in great detail about the skills and experience our Veterans bring back into community and he also articulated how they sometimes bring service related challenges with them too. He talked about the DVOP and LVER programs and understands the challenges our Veterans face when trying to return to the workforce. Following the panel discussions, there were four breakout sessions that addressed the following topics:

**Veterans Employment & Transition Assistance
Veterans Homelessness
Addiction, Mental Health & Suicide Prevention
VA Modernization and Reform**

Health and Behavioral Service Committee (continued)

Reducing Veteran Homelessness Joint Committee

- 11/7/17 and 1/29/18: Joint Committee conducted business via a web conference
 - Our membership team is diverse and powerful
 - We are focused and action oriented
 - Forming new Partnerships
 - Spreading Awareness
 - Creating Solutions

Health and Behavioral Service Committee (continued)

PA State Strategy Session for Tobacco Free Recovery

- November 16-17 State Summit in Harrisburg, PA

Coalition of State and Federal Partners

SAMSHA, DoH, DHS, OMHSAS, DMVA, DDAP, DoA, + Others

Goal – To develop a State Strategy, Working Groups and relevant action plans to facilitate tobacco free recovery environment in Pennsylvania.

Encourage tobacco cessation

Provide alternate treatment methods

Next Steps – Working Groups meet on a regular schedule (quarterly)

GAC-VS Quarterly Meeting, February 21, 2018

> community > commonwealth > country

Health and Behavioral Service Committee (continued)

Developing Lodge Updates

Venango County

We continue to conduct referrals to this lodge
Community Interest remains high
2 Veterans currently living in this lodge

Erie County (x2)

Lodge is fully furnished and interviews continue for new members
Lodge coordinator continues to work with community leaders to
ensure community integration and support
4 Veterans currently living in these lodges

Cumberland Perry

Lodge is furnished and interviews continue for new members
2 Veterans currently living in this lodge

Lackawanna County

We are working closely with county officials to build stakeholder ship for a
new lodge in Lackawanna County

DMVA and our partners remain committed to the positive outcomes that we see being delivered through the Veteran Centric Fairweather Lodge initiative.

Health and Behavioral Service Committee (continued)

Dr. Darryl Jackson, Chief Medical Officer and SA Hamp represent the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on This steering committee.

- CCBHCs are currently in operation in the eight states selected for participation in the Section 223 demonstration (also known as the CCBHC demonstration or the Excellence in Mental Health Act demonstration): Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon and Pennsylvania.
- **CCBHCs are a vehicle for expanded access to intensive community-based services for individuals with untreated severe mental illness or addiction.** Recent data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) indicate that only 43.1 percent of all people living with serious mental illnesses like schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, and major clinical depression receive behavioral health care;¹ the remainder are served in homeless shelters, hospital emergency rooms, and penal institutions, which serve as the largest inpatient psychiatric facilities in the United States. Only 1 in 10 Americans with an addiction receive treatment in any given year.²
- In response to the recent surge in opioid addiction and opioid-related deaths, addiction treatment is a core component of CCBHCs' required service array, and the CCBHC payment rate has supported clinics in expanding the scope of addiction care they provide. In many states, individuals with opioid addiction are a target population for the CCBHC demonstration.
- The CCBHC demonstration was designed to support clinics in expanding service delivery and implementing the latest evidence-based practices and technologies to improve the quality and scope of care. Many of these activities have not been reimbursable under previous funding streams, making it impossible for organizations to implement the latest treatment innovations known to improve outcomes. CCBHCs nationwide report that the new payment rate has enabled them to open new service lines and leverage new technologies to improve care.

Health and Behavioral Service Committee (continued)

SA Hamp represents the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on this initiative.

- The Warm Hand-Off for Opioid Survivors Initiative is hosted by the Department of Health with partners that include DHS, OMHSAS, DDAP, DoA, DMVA, the County Commissioners Association of PA (CCAP) and a number of community organizations that include First Responders, Emergency Room or Departments (ER/ED), several physicians groups and health care insurance organizations.
- The goal of this organization is to ensure that the training and resources are in place to provide Opioid Overdose Survivors are exposed to a variety of resources that are available within community. The concept includes action by First Responders, Emergency Department care givers, law enforcement, community resources, family etc...to ensure a "warm hand-off" is accomplished as opposed to completing life saving activities then simply discharging the survivor back into community with no option to seek recovery.
- We are working with DoH on the Regional Summits for the Warm Hand-Off for Opioid Overdose Survivors. Early Planning has us conducting summits at the following locations:

Northwest (Venango County), April 4th (morning) - Dr. Levine (DOH)

Northcentral (Lycoming County), April 12th (afternoon) - Dr. Levine (DOH), Secretary Smith (DDAP), Maj Gen Carrelli, TAG

Northeast (Lackawanna County), April 10th (morning) - Dr. Levine (DOH), Secretary Smith (DDAP), Maj Gen Carrelli, TAG

Southwest (Westmoreland County), April 3rd (morning) - Dr. Levine (DOH)

Southcentral (Cumberland County), March 22nd (afternoon) - Secretary Smith (DDAP), Maj Gen Carrelli, TAG

Southeast (Chester County), March 27th (afternoon) - Secretary Miller (DHS) giving opening remarks; Secretary Smith (DDAP)

Health and Behavioral Service Committee (continued)

DMVA has been awarded line item funding to provide Veteran Behavioral Health Support to Veterans throughout the Commonwealth.

Funding remains in budgetary reserve pending full passage of the budget
We have developed a Notice of Funding Announcement (NOFA) and are prepared to release and execute the grant program once the funds are released

This Grant program will allow us to address a broad spectrum of Behavioral Health challenges that include, but are not limited to:

- PTSD with co-occurring substance use disorder
- Mental Health First Aid
- Residential treatment for substance use disorder
- Partial inpatient care for substance use disorder
- Outpatient care for substance use disorder
- Housing, employment, education and other wrap around services
- Outreach services to incarcerated Veterans

We are hopeful that we can announce grant awards in May of 2018

Women Veterans Committee

Ms. Jodi Zucco
Chair

Women Veterans Committee, Jodi Zucco, (Chair)

Subcommittee conducted conference calls on 12/20/17 and 1/18/18 and 1/23/18 meeting GOP

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Jodi Zucco	Office of Attorney General, U.S. Army Reserve Retired
Constance Snavelly	State Veterans' Commission, U.S. Army Retired
JoAnn Tresco	Service Members and Family Support Branch, PA Army National Guard (PAANG) Veteran Retired
Lisa Kaye	County Directors for Veterans' Affairs, U.S. Army Veteran
Karen Herrling	Department of Human Services
Patricia Conroy	Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center

Women Veterans Committee

Mission: *Women Veterans Outreach, Women Veterans focus in Annual Veteran Symposium, Identify emerging needs, Identify Gaps in benefits, programs and services for Women Veterans*

Critical Need: Identify Issues of Unique Concern to PA Women Veterans

Barrier: Lack of Input from our Target Population (in excess of 60,000 female veterans)

Mitigation:

- Develop and Disseminate a Questionnaire
- Town hall Meetings and Expos
- Supplemental Information, Academic Research and Studies

Women Veterans Committee (continued)

Questionnaire:

- Final Approval Obtained
- Formulating Dissemination Plan

Town Hall and Expo:

- Pilot Event Tentatively Scheduled for May at Army Heritage Center
- Event Exclusively for Women Veterans
- Briefings and Outreach
- Concept Paper, Request for Outreach Support

Judiciary Committee

Mr. Ryan Yoder
Chair

Judiciary Committee, Ryan Yoder (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Ryan Yoder	Department of Corrections
Nicholas “Chip” Gilliland	Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs
Richard Podguski	PA Board of Probation and Parole
Terry Stokes	State Veterans’ Commission (Veterans Court Advocate – PA VFW)
Ward Adams	Member at Large
Carl Feldman	Department of Human Services

Judiciary Committee

- On September 22, 2017, Judiciary team members participated in a Veterans Court program entitled ***Veterans Courts in Pennsylvania - An Alternative Solution for Difficult Issues***. The program was held at the Widener Commonwealth Law School in Harrisburg.
- Event sponsors included: the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, Federal Bar Association, Lt. Governor's Task Force on Veterans and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.
- Guest speakers included: PA Supreme Court Justice Debra Todd, Lieutenant Governor Michael Stack as well as various judges and attorneys.
- Topics included a primer on the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Substance Abuse on veterans (provided by experts in the field from Lebanon VA Medical Center.) In addition, a panel of speakers discussed the functions and key roles in the veterans court process and issues affecting smaller population counties in creating veterans courts.
- The Judiciary team will be reaching out to various counties and their respective President Judges in order to gain a better understanding of the challenges associated with initiating a Veterans Court. The objective will be to identify similarities and best practices across the state, which will potential lead in the development of future Veterans Courts throughout the state.
- On October 26, 2017, Judiciary team members Ryan Yoder and Chip Gilliland were invited to give presentations at the PA Prison Wardens Association 2017 Annual Fall Training Conference in State College. The focus of this year's event was "Supporting our Veterans Inside and Out."

Judiciary Committee (continued)

On November 2, Superintendent Brian Thompson and SCI Mercer's staff were honored to host a tour of the Veterans Service Unit (VSU) by Pennsylvania's Lt. Gov. Mike Stack. Also in attendance was Senator Michelle Brooks from Pennsylvania's 50th District. Others touring the VSU included Matt Franchak, Lt. Gov.'s Chief of Staff; William Gelgot, Lt. Gov.'s Executive Assistant; Steve Burk, Secretary of the Board of Pardons; Ryan Yoder, Statewide Veterans Coordinator; Ross Miller, DOC Chief of Classification and Assessment; and Richard Podguski, Director of Probation and Parole.



The VSU tour was arranged as a way to show support and appreciation, as well as to say thanks to our incarcerated military veterans for their service during the week of Veterans Day.

Judiciary Committee (continued)

SCI Mercer staff welcomed members of the Allegheny County Veterans Court team to tour the Veterans Service Unit (VSU) on December 1. Unit Manager Lisa Graves explained the VSU program to the group, after which, the members spoke one-on-one with inmates housed on the VSU. Judge Zotolla is interested in working with the DOC to incorporate a Veteran reentry program as part of his existing Veterans Court program. The program would be voluntary and act as a continuation of reentry programming and services currently provided by the DOC.



Judiciary Committee (continued)

- Problem Solving Courts
 - Spoke with representative from Large (Philadelphia) and Small (Carbon) courts
 - Looking to Identify Best Practices Between the Courts
- Recurring Themes:
 - **COMMITMENT** (Judicial, Enforcement and Treatment Communities)
 - Judges, Adult Probation, Public Defenders, District Attorneys, Treatment Providers, etc....
 - **Availability of Resources**
 - Funding, Funding, Funding
 - **AOPC Support and Training**
 - Training provides all the tools necessary to start a court

Judiciary Committee (continued)

On January 3, Lt. Governor Stack and the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) participated in a meeting with Richard Baum, Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which was held at the Executive Office of the President of the United States in Washington, D.C. They were joined by colleagues from the PA Department of Corrections, PA Board of Pardons, PA Board of Probation and Parole, PRO-A and Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the Trump Administration ONDCP on the PA Pathways to Pardons program, which includes Veteran Service initiatives within the DOC. NAMSDL would like to make PA's Pathways to Pardons program a national model to be replicated in all 50 states.



Judiciary Committee (continued)

On January 10, state military officials visited SCI Houtzdale via Blackhawk helicopter to tour the Veterans Service Unit (VSU). The high-ranking visitors included Pennsylvania's adjutant general and head of the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Maj. Gen. Tony Carrelli, Brigadier General Michael Regan and Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Buchanan, the PA National Guard's senior enlisted leader. Also in attendance were Pennsylvania's Office of Administration's Special Advisor for Veterans Programs Kory Auch, DMVA Chip Gilliland, Central Office's Regional Reentry Administrator Janeen Christ and Statewide Veterans Coordinator Ryan Yoder.

Maj. Gen. Carrelli had heard many great things about the VSU program and wanted to see it first-hand. After witnessing the daily operations and having the opportunity to speak with VSU staff and participants, Carrelli said he was very impressed. "Just because they're housed here doesn't mean they're not entitled to their benefits," Carrelli declared. "I'm going to make sure that they get what they need."



Judiciary Committee (continued)

Homeless Veterans' Stand Down

This is the 12th year that the Greater Harrisburg YWCA has hosted the Homeless Veterans' Stand Down, which ran January 19-21. The event provides critical services to support homeless and at-risk veterans from communities throughout south central Pennsylvania. Typical services provided at the Stand Down include: VA medical services; combat veterans' services including the VET Center; PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs referral services; rapid re-housing; employment assistance; legal assistance; dental care; advocacy services; recovery services; mental health services; benefits counseling; connection with military service organizations; overnight shelter; and other critical supplies. In addition to the DOC recruiting table, DOC employees also provided a variety of items that were delivered to the YWCA in support of homeless veterans. Items donated included hats, gloves, winter coats, new men's/women's underwear, socks, toiletries, jeans/khakis, long-sleeve work shirts and belts. This is the second year that DOC Central Office has participated in this event.

Judiciary Committee (continued)

Homeless Veterans' Stand Down



Judiciary Committee (continued)



www.VetDogs.org

The State Correctional Institution at Dallas celebrated the graduation of two dogs from America's VetDogs' Prison Puppy Program on January 23. Working with America's VetDogs, SCI Dallas inmates raise and train service dogs that eventually will provide U.S. military veterans and first responders with the chance to live a life without boundaries. Beginning in December 2016, SCI Dallas partnered with America's VetDogs, a Smithtown, New York, organization that provides free service dogs to veterans and first responders of all eras. Veteran James Hough and his service dog Cleo were at the graduation to speak about the impact his service dog has had on his life. Mr. Hough is a Vietnam Vet and suffers from several mental diagnosis and his Service Dog has helped bring his life back together.



Administration/Technology Committee

Ms. Sandra Patterson
Chair

Administration/Technology Committee, Sandra Patterson (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Sandra Patterson	Office of Administration – Information Technology
Timothy Irvin	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs - IT
Eric Felty	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs - IT
Joe Smolock	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs - Telecom
Rick Hamp	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs - ODAGVA
Robert Rounce	Department of Health
Christine Hawk	Department of Education
Susan Leevan	
Ronald Wilt	Department of Revenue
Ryan Yoder	Department of Corrections

Administration/Technology Committee

Progress to Date

- Completed Project Charter and Business Requirements to implement Veteran Registry changes as required by HB1231
- Finalized phases of VETS – Veteran Eligibility Tracking System Project
 - Phase 1 - Finalized Business requirements with PAI (Website vendor) for capture of additional information on the Veteran Registry. Implemented scheduled for 2/22/18 upon completion of testing and approval from DMVA business
 - Increased email addresses
 - Print Form option
 - Allows for identification of agency assisting with registration
 - Phase 2 – Account creation for updating information and uploading DD214
 - Phase 3 – Uploading DD214 to Veteran Registry
 - Phase 4 – Allowing Agencies to Upload DD214 based on sister agency input
 - * Additional business requirements needed for Phases 2, 3 and 4
- Attended Suicide Prevention meetings and supplied information on establishing a 3 digit dialing for Veteran crisis line in PA. Awaiting next steps from Committee.
 - PENNDOT provided cost information for PA 511 indicating implementation costs were approximately \$153K and monthly fees are \$20K

Administration/Technology Committee (continued)

Next Steps

- **Work with OAOIT Enterprise to evaluate capability within PAI for account creation**
- **Collect business requirements for the upload of DD214 from Veteran Registry**
- **Document the collection, validation, and business process for using the DD214 within the sister agencies to determine a clear direction and scope of Phase 4**

Suicide Prevention-Peer (SPPEER) Committee

Mr. Rick Hamp
Chair

Suicide Prevention-Peer (SPPEER) Committee, Rick Hamp (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Rick Hamp	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Mark Todero	Pennsylvania National Guard
Sherry Peters	Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Angela Keen, Ph.D.	Veterans Integrated Service Network, Mental Health Program Lead
Randy Loss	Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Fred Nardei	VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Certified Forensic Peer Specialist
Ryan Yoder	Department of Corrections, Statewide Veteran Coordinator
Dave Measel	Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition
Donald Danser, Ph.D.	Department of Veterans Affairs, Manager, BH VA and Specialty Clinics



SPPEER Committee

The Leadership Team remains engaged and focused on initiatives that help our Veterans maintain Wellness.

White House Veterans Affairs Conference on 29 Nov 2017- Staying abreast of what our National Leadership and Partners are doing for our Service members, Veterans and their Families.

Making a Difference in our communities – CCBHC Providing Services where they count

Warm-Hand Off Opioid Survivors Initiative– Multi-Agency Task Force addressing the Opioid Crisis in PA

Veteran Behavioral Health Support Grant Program – A chance to make a real difference in how we help Veterans with Behavioral Health issues and co-occurring Substance Use Disorders.

Co-Chairs will represent the SPPEER Committee at formal sessions of the Governors' Advisory Council for Veterans Services (GAC-VS)



SPPEER Committee (continued)

Community Awareness and Communications

1LT Brandberg

Mr. Mark Todero, Working Group Chair



SPPEER Committee (continued)

Prevention and Treatment Services and Strategies

Mrs. Sherry Peters, Working Group Chair



SPPEER Committee (continued)

Training and Education

Mr. Fred Nardei, Working Group Chair



- **Act 69**
- **Open Discussion**
- **Questions/Remarks**

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 1:00 PM

**Arrowheads Community Club
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA**